UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

United States of America,)
Plaintiff,)
v.) Civil No.
Nine Thousand Three Hundred One (\$9,301.00) dollars in United States) JURY TRIAL REQUESTED
Currency, more or less, seized from Corey Watts;)
corey watts,)
Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred)
(\$32,700.00) dollars in United States)
Currency, more or less, seized from)
M.B. and T.B.;)
Six Thousand (\$6,000.00) dollars in)
United States Currency, more or less,)
seized from M.B. and T.B.,)
)
Defendants in rem.)
)

<u>VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE IN REM FOR PROPERTY</u> <u>WITHIN THE UNITED STATES' POSSESSION, CUSTODY OR CONTROL</u> <u>PURSUANT TO SUPPLEMENTAL RULE G</u>

Plaintiff, United States of America, brings this complaint in accordance with Supplemental Rule G(2) of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, and alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

This is an action to forfeit and condemn to the use and benefit of the United States of America the following properties: (1) Nine Thousand Three Hundred One (\$9,301.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from Corey Watts; (2) Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred (\$32,700.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from M.B. and T.B.;

and (3) Six Thousand (\$6,000.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from seized from M.B. and T.B.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 1355. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1395 and 1355(b)(1).

THE DEFENDANTS IN REM

The defendants *in rem* consist of the following properties: (1) Nine Thousand Three Hundred One (\$9,301.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from Corey Watts; (2) Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred (\$32,700.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from M.B. and T.B.; and (3) Six Thousand (\$6,000.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from M.B. and T.B.

FACTS

1. On October 28, 2014, officers from the Dover, New Hampshire Police Department responded to a report of a domestic disturbance at 11 Second Street, Apartment 5, Dover, New Hampshire, between Cory Watts and his girlfriend, N.L. The victim, N.L., met the officers at the entrance to the apartment building and told the officers that Watts had choked her and pushed her down after an argument concerning his "cooking drugs" and trying to get high. Officers noticed that her neck was still red. N.L. told officers that Watts has been selling cocaine, heroin and Percocet pills, making about \$1,000 a day. She had driven him to drug deals and had often watched him count drug proceeds at night. N.L. said that Watts had hidden approximately \$10,000 in currency in a closet in the apartment.

- 2. N.L. told the officers that Watts was still inside the apartment. When officers went to the apartment, Watts did not allow them to enter. He denied N.L.'s allegations of drug use and assault.
- 3. Officers eventually entered the apartment and placed Watts under arrest for assault. When officers searched him, they found wads of cash in Watts's pockets totaling \$431. During his booking, he said that he was on probation. He was unemployed, but received Social Security disability benefits.
- 4. Watts signed a Consent to Search form, allowing officers to search the apartment.

 During the search, officers found a water bottle with tin foil wrapped over the opening, the kind used to smoke crack cocaine, with drug residue on the tin foil. They found \$8,910 in the rear of a closet. The total amount of currency seized from Watts is \$9,301, the defendant *in rem* (1).
- 5. N.L. later told officers that Watts delivers bulk cash to a female relative of his, whom she identified by name (M.B.). N.L. said Watts had given this relative approximately \$30,000 in cash during the previous three months, and that she had accompanied Watts when he had delivered money to her. N.L. said that she had heard Watts and this relative discuss the fact that the money was proceeds from drug sales. M.B. and her husband (T.B.) have used some of the money to pay business or personal expenses, or treated it as loans.
- 6. A further law enforcement investigation confirmed N.L.'s statements about Watts's drug money. M.B. and T.B. admitted that they possessed cash proceeds of drug sales that Watts had given to them. On November 24, 2014, M.B. voluntarily turned over the defendant *in rem* (2), \$32,700 in currency, to law enforcement officers. A State Police drug dog inspected and alerted to the currency. On December 1, 2014, M.B. and T.B. turned over an additional \$6,000 in cash that Watts had given to them, the defendant *in rem* (3). M.B. acknowledged in writing that

the additional funds also represented drug proceeds. M.B. signed a written consent to forfeiture of the money in the presence of her attorney.

13. Corey Watts received convictions for possession of a controlled drug, a misdemeanor offense, in 1988, 2007, 2008, and 2017. Watts received convictions for possession of a controlled drug, a felony offense, in 2011, 2013 and 2014.

CLAIM FOR FORFEITURE

- 14. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 13 of this Verified Complaint for Forfeiture *in Rem* are incorporated by reference.
- 15. Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6) subjects to forfeiture "all moneys ... or other things of value furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for a controlled substance or ... all proceeds traceable to such an exchange and all moneys ... used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of" the Controlled Substances Act.
- 16. The defendants *in rem*, (1) Nine Thousand Three Hundred One (\$9,301.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from Corey Watts; (2) Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred (\$32,700.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from M.B. and T.B.; and (3) Six Thousand (\$6,000.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from M. B. and T.B., were furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for a controlled substance, in violation of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. § 801, et seq., or represent proceeds traceable to such exchanges, or money used or intended to be used to facilitate violations of the Act.
- 17. As a result of the foregoing, the defendants *in rem*, (1) Nine Thousand Three Hundred One (\$9,301.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from Corey Watts; (2) Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred (\$32,700.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from M.B. and T.B.; and (3) Six Thousand (\$6,000.00) dollars in United States

Currency, more or less, seized from M.B. and T.B., are liable to condemnation and forfeiture to the

United States for its use, in accordance with 21 U.S.C.

§ 881(a)(6).

Therefore, the United States requests that:

(a) the Clerk of Court issue a Warrant of Arrest in Rem in the form submitted with this

Verified Complaint to the United States Marshal for the District of New Hampshire commanding

him to arrest the defendants in rem;

(b) this matter be scheduled for a jury trial;

(c) judgment of forfeiture be decreed against the defendants in rem;

(d) the defendants in rem be disposed of according to law; and,

(e) this Court grant the United States of America its costs and whatever other relief to

which it may be entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

SCOTT W. MURRAY

United States Attorney

Dated: October 25, 2019

By: /s/ Robert J. Rabuck

Robert J. Rabuck

NH Bar No. 2087

Assistant U.S. Attorney

District of New Hampshire

53 Pleasant Street

Concord, New Hampshire

603-225-1552

rob.rabuck@usdoj.gov

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VERIFICATION

I, Casey T. MacDonald, being duly sworn, depose and say that I am a Special Agent with the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and as such have responsibility for the within action, that I have read the contents of the foregoing Verified Complaint for Forfeiture *in Rem* and know the contents therein, and that the same is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

The sources of my information and the grounds of my belief are official records and files of the United States and the State of New Hampshire, and information obtained by me and other law enforcement officers during an investigation of alleged violations of the controlled substances laws of the State of New Hampshire and of the United States.

/s/ Casey T. MacDonald Casey T. MacDonald

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNTY OF MERRIMACK

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of October 2019.

/s/ Francine D. Conrad Francine D. Conrad Notary Public

My commission expires: March 27, 2024

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The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS		
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys (If Known)		
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF P	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government I	Not a Party)		TF DEF 1 1	
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	1 2	
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	1 3	□ 6 □ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT				D I NIVID VIDE CIV	O WAXNE COLUMN TO A STATE OF THE STATE OF TH
CONTRACT □ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY □ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel &	PERSONAL INJURY 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Othe 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Conditions of Confinement	of Property 21 USC 881 690 Other	BANKRUPTCY □ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	OTHER STATUTES □ 375 False Claims Act □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
	moved from	Appellate Court	(specify	er District Litigation	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO			re filing (Do not cite jurisdictional sta	tutes unless diversity):	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	N DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATT	TORNEY OF RECORD		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included nere. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)**

- **III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- **IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

United States of America,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)) Civil No
Nine Thousand Three Hundred One)
(\$9,301.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from)
Corey Watts;)
Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred (\$32,700.00) dollars in United States)
Currency, more or less, seized from M.B. and T.B.;)
)
Six Thousand (\$6,000.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less,)
seized from M.B. and T.B.,)
Defendants in rem.))
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SUMMONS AND WARRANT OF ARREST IN REM FOR ISSUANCE BY THE CLERK OF COURT FOR PROPERTY WITHIN THE UNITED STATES' POSSESSION, CUSTODY OR CONTROL PURSUANT TO SUPPLEMENTAL RULE G(3)(b)(i)

To the United States Marshals Service, or any duly authorized Federal Law Enforcement

Officer for the District of New Hampshire:

Pursuant to Rule G(3)(b)(i) of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims, a Verified Complaint for Forfeiture *in rem* has been filed on October 25, 2019, in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire, alleging that the defendants *in rem*, (1) Nine Thousand Three Hundred One (\$9,301.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from Corey Watts; (2) Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred (\$32,700.00) dollars in

United States Currency, more or less, seized from M.B. and T.B.; and (3) Six Thousand (\$6,000.00) dollars in United States Currency, more or less, seized from M.B. and T.B., are subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6).

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, COMMANDED to seize the captioned defendants *in rem*, and use discretion and whatever means appropriate to protect and maintain the property pending the outcome of this action;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the United States Marshals Service shall maintain custody of the defendants *in rem* until further order of this Court, and shall use his discretion and whatever means appropriate to protect and maintain said defendants *in rem*;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the United States shall serve upon all potential claimants to the defendant *in rem*, a copy of this Summons and Warrant of Arrest *in rem*, and the Verified Complaint for Forfeiture *in rem*, in a manner consistent with the principles of service of process in an action *in rem* under Supplemental Rule G and other Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims and Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a);

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a return of this Summons and Warrant of Arrest *in rem* shall be promptly made to the Court, identifying the individuals upon whom copies were served and the manner employed; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all persons claiming an interest in or right against the defendant *in rem* shall file their verified claim within thirty-five (35) days after the date on which they were sent the Notice of Complaint or the final publication of notice of the filing of the Complaint, whichever is earlier, or within such additional time as the Court may allow, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(4) and Rule G(4)(b)(ii)(B) of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims, and shall serve and file their answer to the

Complaint within twenty-one (21) days after the filing of their verified claim, pursuant to Rule G(4)(b)(ii)(C) of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims, with the Office of the Clerk, United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire, with a copy sent to Assistant United States Attorney Robert J. Rabuck, United States Attorney's Office, District of New Hampshire, 53 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301.

Dated:

DANIEL J. LYNCH, CLERK